

REMARKS

These remarks and the above amendments are responsive to the Office action dated October 19, 2004. Claims 1-35 are pending in the application, following a restriction requirement that led to the cancellation of claims 36-74. In the Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-11, 14, 22-26, 28-32, 34, and 35 as anticipated or obvious. However, the Examiner merely objected to claims 12, 13, 15-21, 27, and 33, stating that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants traverse the rejections, contending that all of the claims are patentable as written. Nevertheless, to expedite issuance of a patent, applicants have (1) canceled pending claims 1-35, without prejudice, and (2) added new claims 75-132 to more particularly point out and distinctly claim aspects of the invention recited in the "allowable." claims. In view of the above amendments and these remarks, applicants respectfully request consideration of the new claims, and prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Claims 22 and 23

The Examiner stated that claims 22 and 23 were substantial duplicates. Applicants apologize for the confusion. Claim 22 should have depended from claim 15, not claim 1, in which case claims 22 and 23 would not be substantial duplicates. Applicants considered this typographical error while drafting the new claims.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-11, 14, 22-26, 28-32, 34, and 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) or 103(a) as allegedly being anticipated by Lund et al. ('784) (claims 1, 3, 4, 6-11, 14, 22-25, 29-32, and 34) or obvious in view of Lund et al. (claim 26) or Lund et al. in view of Cassin et al. ('287) (claims 2, 5, 28, and 35). Applicants traverse these

rejections. In particular, applicants do not believe that Lund et al. or Cassin et al. or any other reference, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests all of the limitations in the rejected claims. Nevertheless, to expedite issuance of a patent, applicants have canceled the rejected claims, and added new claims based on dependent claims that the Examiner indicated were allowable over the prior art. Applicants reserve their right to pursue the canceled claims with or without amendment in a continuation application.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner stated that claims 12, 13, 15-21, 27, and 33 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants agree with the Examiner's conclusions regarding the patentability of these claims, without necessarily agreeing with or acquiescing in the Examiner's reasoning. In particular, applicants believe that these claims are allowable because the prior art fails to teach or suggest the limitations in these claims, independent of how the invention or the reasons for allowability may have been expressed or paraphrased by the Examiner.

Claim Amendments

Applicants have canceled pending claims 1-35, without prejudice, and added new claims 75-132, for reasons mentioned above.

The new claims include three independent claims (75, 101, and 129), as well as fifty-five dependent claims depending therefrom, which more particularly point out and distinctly claim aspects of the invention recited in claims that the Examiner indicated were allowable (1+15, 1+24+27, and 31+33).

Exemplary support for the new claims is shown, without limitation, in the following table:

New Claim	Original Claim
75 (Independent)	1+15
76	2
77	3
78	4
79	5
80	6
81	7
82	8
83	9
84	10
85	11
86	13
87	14
88	16
89	17
90	18
91	19
92	20
93	21
94	22
95	24
96	25
97	26
98	28
99	29
100	30

New Claim	Original Claim
101 (Independent)	1+24+27
102	2
103	3
104	4
105	5
106	6
107	7
108	8
109	9
110	10
111	11
112	12
113	13
114	14
115	15
116	16
117	17
118	18
119	19
120	20
121	21
122	22
123	23
124	25
125	26
126	28
127	29
128	30
129 (Independent)	31+33
130	32
131	34
132	35

Applicants believe that this application is now in condition for allowance, in view of the above amendments and remarks. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowance covering the new claims. If the Examiner has any questions, or if a telephone interview would in any way advance prosecution of the application, please contact the undersigned attorney of record.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

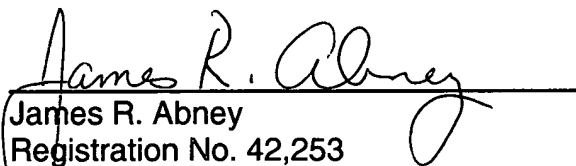
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Respectfully submitted,

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